

November 2008



GALLATIN CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Onsite-Insights

"Committed to the protection and promotion of public health"

Environmental Health Services

Greetings from your local Sanitarians. The year went by too fast—not surprising when everyone is so busy!

Records show the number of septic permits issued in Gallatin are down:

1990	282 permits issued
1995	545 permits issued
2000	507 permits issued
2005	548 permits issued
2006	507 permits issued
2007	379 permits issued
2008	to date 224 permits issued

We've issued septic permits since 1966 and had a yearly high of 615 (2004) and as few as 178 (1988). See our history in the Guidance/Policy Documents on the web or in your regulations for more yearly numbers.

We Have Moved



In July 2008 the entire Health Department moved to the Courthouse Annex (aka Lower Martel Building - corner of 3rd & Mendenhall)



Gallatin City County Health Department
Environmental Health Services
215 West Mendenhall, Rm 108
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3120

Stop by, say hello, and check out our new 'digs'



Fun
Food
Refreshments

Please join us for our
"Open House"

November 18, 2008
4—6 PM

At our new location

Installer and Site Evaluator Registrations Renewals

Your current registration will
EXPIRE January 31, 2009

You will need to renew your registration before January 31, 2009 if you would like to stay on our list.

Since the current Health Code is being updated and no modifications to state or local regulations have occurred, you **will not** be required to test this year for registration renewals.



Please Submit

- Completed Renewal Form (enclosed)
- \$50.00 registration fee

Changes to the Gallatin City-County Wastewater Treatment Local Health Code

Chapter Three of the Local Health Code Regulations is in the process of being revised.



We would like your input!

Please submit comments in writing by
January 1, 2009

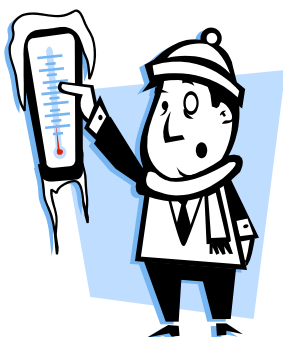
- Mail 215 W. Mendenhall, Rm 108
Bozeman, MT 59715
- Fax (406) 582-3128
- Email tom.moore@gallatin.mt.gov

To view the current regulations they are available on our website **gallatin.mt.gov/health** and in our office or, of course, in your backhoe/pickup.

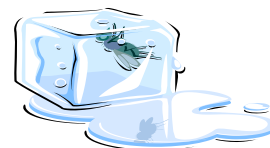
The rewrite process takes 4 to 6 months; check our website periodically to review drafts.

Freezing Drainfields

Don't let an emergency ruin your weekend with a frozen drainfield



- ⇒ Take all precautions necessary
- ⇒ Adequate insulation cover if installing in Fall/Winter
 - Ensure at least 12" of cover
 - Try mulch/hay
- ⇒ Good slope-no sags
- ⇒ Pipe at least 1 1/4 inch in diameter
- ⇒ Installing more lateral holes facing down
- ⇒ Use good wire ties that won't break or sag



As-Built

GCCHD is going to start returning as-built drawings that have

- sloppy or illegible aspects
- measurements that are cluttered together or hard to decipher
- drawings with excessive eraser marks or scratch outs



Reminders

- As-builts are due within 30 days of inspection date: if not received we will not be able to accept any further work from you until resolved.
- All septic systems, including tanks only and public systems, must be called in for inspection.
- With all permits being scanned into electronic form, it is more important now than ever that as-built drawings be legible and precise. These are final permanent records!

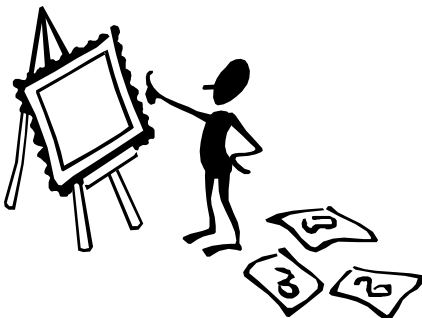


Soils Class Offered



Some time the week of December 15th a two day soils class will be offered by a MSU professor. It will consist of lecture time, hands on lab work and a site visit to local MSU soils pits (weather permitting). A small fee will be charged, and class size limited to 25 persons.

Call us to reserve your spot and we will put you on the list and let you know the actual dates as soon as we find out.



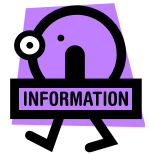
The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) is considering establishing minimum qualifications for individuals conducting site evaluations. It is likely that a soils class such as this will be a mandatory component, even for engineers.

We anticipate more classes, perhaps yearly, if MDEQ does begin requiring minimum qualifications but they may not be as conveniently located nor as inexpensive in the future.

Think ahead—Prevent having to go back for more field work



- Research groundwater data before digging your pits; if any information shows water less than 7' make sure to bring some pipes.
- Research soils information; if there is potential bedrock, plan on digging an extra pit(s) to prove the entire drainfield & replacement will meet vertical separation.
- Determine groundwater direction before digging, make sure your mixing zone will not cross surface water or a zone of influence for any well.
- If there is surface water downgradient, think of digging your pits deeper to help with phosphorus breakthrough calculations.
- If you have nearby surface water, think about surface water nondegradation; you might want to dig a pit by the water to determine if the surface water is 'losing', 'gaining', or not hydraulically connected. (See nondeg. guidelines Section 5)
- If you've got a potential tight or limiting layer below your proposed trench depth, you may want to conduct a deeper percolation test while you're onsite to prove that the layer is not limiting.
- Don't forget that multi-user or public systems need 3 pits (minimum).
- Pressure distribution systems with more than one zone need a pit in each zone.
- If you have nearby surface water without a delineated floodplain, gather adequate data while onsite to verify that setbacks can be maintained from the drainfield to floodplain.



What's a 622 Hearing?

Developers are required to submit certain water and sanitation related information for major and minor subdivision plats during the Preliminary Plat review process with the Planning Department [76-3-622 MCA].

The public is invited to provide public comment during the Preliminary Plat hearing before the commissioners, and the commissioners or planners are required to provide these public comments (or a summary of public comments) to the developer after the hearing [76-3-604(6) MCA].

The developer is then required to submit this information as part of his Sanitation Act submittal to MDEQ & GCCHD [76-4-125(1)(a) MCA].



The bottom line is that you must provide GCCHD/DEQ with a copy of the public comments (or summary of the comments) that were given to the developer by the Planning Department or Commissioners. Those public comments were a response to water and sanitation information provided by the developer/site evaluator as part of the preliminary plat approval process.